

refuge

WEEK THREE: HELP FOR MY DOUBT

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Where do you turn when you're struggling with the uncertainties of life? How do you deal with the anxiety of not knowing? This week, Mike asked "Can God get us through this earth experience?" "Is He going to be able to do anything with me in this life?" You may know you are a Christian, but you also see you haven't changed much. You know Jesus is real, but you're asking, "What can He do with me? Is He going to get me through this experience? Am I going to be able to become the person God wants me to be?"

When we begin to doubt, we really doubt God's ability to do something powerful in and with our lives. Let's look at the apostle Peter. He was impulsive, talkative, opinionated and boastful. He cursed, denied, and failed his Savior. In other words, he was just like you and me.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Which of the following would you admit to in your heart? "Today, I can say that my life is an open book. I'm not perfect, but I'm transparent. Or would it be, "I have secrets that I have never shared; I will never share them. I don't think God could forgive me." I urge those of you who have been forgiven much to share with your group—not the sordid details, but God's extravagant grace and how that feels.

Into the Bible

- 2) Here is a list of infamous sinners who became pillars of our faith. This is by no means all of them! Jot down briefly their sin (found in the passages below) and then note their success, in your estimation. Are you surprised at the graciousness of God, Who takes broken people and uses them for great things?

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- a. **Moses (Exodus 2:11-15)**
 - b. **Rahab (Joshua 2:1-7)**
 - c. **King David (2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-15)**
 - d. **Levi/Matthew (Mark 2:13-17)**
 - e. **Saul/Paul (Acts 7:54-60; Acts 9:1-2)**
- 3) We can live in a place of doubt where we feel like we've gone too far away from God. But we can once again walk with God in this life, just as Peter walked with Jesus at the beach. Check out the following verses of reassurance of God's unchanging love for you. How do they comfort you?
- a. **Romans 8:38-39**
 - b. **1 Corinthians 1:4-9**
 - c. **Hebrews 13:5-6**
 - d. **James 4:4-10**

How Does This Apply?

- 4) Jesus asked Peter and the other disciples to bring some of the fish they had just caught. He asked for, took, and used the little boy's lunch when he fed the five thousand. What "little bit"—small in amount or unassuming in appearance—do you have that could and should be used for God? What material possessions do you know He has been asking you to make available for his purposes?

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- 5) Chuck Colson died this weekend. He was known as President Nixon's "hatchet man" and went to prison over the Watergate scandal. But God reached him in jail; he chose Jesus as his Savior. Even amid national cynicism about his claim to be "born again," Colson turned his failure into ministry, founding Prison Fellowship. What failures or past hurts do you need to make available to God? Who can you serve better than anyone else, because of the wounds you have suffered and trials you have experienced?

Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own

- 6) Jesus told the disciples to wait for Him at the lake. Why? Read **Isaiah 40**. It is a chapter about the centuries of waiting experienced by the children of Israel. They waited 40 years to enter the Promised Land and they waited for deliverance from decades of captivity. Isaiah spoke to the desperate wait for a Messiah. What can we learn by waiting?